

IN THE CLAIMS

A Please cancel claims 1-24, without prejudice or disclaimer.

AT Please add the following new claims:

--25. A method for the knowledge-based advising, managing and/or controlling of a business process involving at least two parties, comprising the steps of:
(a) logically interlinking process knowledge and/or expert knowledge in a database;
generating an assessment that characterizes the status of said business process based on the interlinked knowledge and partial process results;

formulating a course of action from said assessment for at least one of said at least two parties; and

signaling said course of action to said at least one party,

wherein said at least two parties have access to an information processor configured to provide said at least two parties with interactive access to said database for the process-accompanying input and storage of said process knowledge and/or expert knowledge.

26. The method as claimed in claim 25, wherein the interlinking step is based on at least one table configured for the structured gathering of expert knowledge.

27. The method as claimed in claim 25, wherein the interlinking step is based on at least one checklist.

28. The method as claimed in claim 27, wherein the checklist comprises at least one milestone-related work package comprising subprocesses of said business process.

29. The method as claimed in claim 25, wherein the assessment generating step comprises entering numerical values or marking areas in color.

A 30. The method as claimed in claim 25, wherein said signaling step comprises automatically generating an e-mail or setting a hyperlink.

31. The method as claimed in claim 25, wherein said course of action comprises formulating, defining, supplementing or executing work packages, requirements, functions, functional descriptions, system analyses, components, process descriptions, technical features, target values, assessments, priorities, risks or actions for reducing risks.

32. The method as claimed in claim 25, wherein the process knowledge contained in the database is based on the process knowledge of a standard business process adaptable to a branch-specific individual process for said knowledge-based advising, managing and/or controlling.

33. The method as claimed in claim 32, wherein said business process comprises a product production process.

34. The method as claimed in claim 25, wherein said interactive access to said database comprises a communication network.

35. The method as claimed in claim 34, wherein said communication network comprises the Internet or a company-internal intranet.

36. The method as claimed in claim 25, wherein said at least two parties comprise one or more members of company management, project teams, suppliers, customers and/or advisers.

37. A data processing system for the knowledge-based advising, managing and/or controlling of a business process involving at least two parties, wherein said system is configured to:

logically interlink process knowledge and/or expert knowledge in a database;
generate an assessment that characterizes the status of said business process based on the interlinked knowledge and partial process results;

formulate a course of action from said assessment for at least one of said at least two parties;
and

signal said course of action to said at least one party,

wherein said at least two parties have access to an information processor configured to provide said at least two parties with interactive access to said database for the process-
accompanying input and storage of said process knowledge and/or expert knowledge.

38. The data processing system as claimed in claim 37, wherein the interlinking is based on at least one table configured for the structured gathering of expert knowledge.

39. The data processing system as claimed in claim 37, wherein the interlinking is based on at least one checklist.

40. The data processing system as claimed in claim 39, wherein the checklist comprises at least one milestone-related work package comprising subprocesses of the business process.

41. The data processing system as claimed in claim 37, wherein the generation of an assessment comprises entering numerical values or marking areas in color.

42. The data processing system as claimed in claim 37, wherein the signaling comprises automatically generating an e-mail or setting a hyperlink.

43. The data processing system as claimed in claim 37, wherein said course of action comprises formulating, defining, supplementing or executing work packages, requirements, functions, functional descriptions, system analyses, components, process descriptions, technical features, target values, assessments, priorities, risks or actions for reducing risks.

44. The data processing system as claimed in claim 37, wherein the process knowledge contained in the database is based on the process knowledge of a standard business process